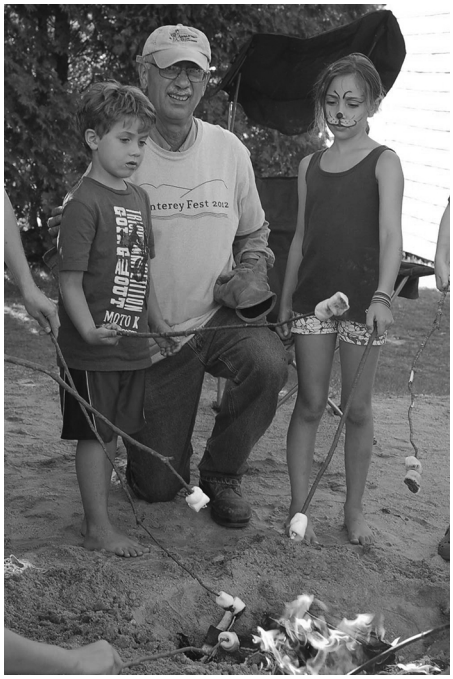
MONTEREY NEWS

September 2012
VOLUME XLII · Number 9



MontereyFest 2012: Dancing at the beach, hiking Diane's Trail, Bob Rausch at his marshmallow pit. (Photos by Dorene Beller)

The Town

by Susan Gallant

General Store

Everyone is eagerly awaiting the opening of the Monterey General Store, and, not surprisingly, rumors abound! Some are pure fiction, others are laced with fact, and still others are, unfortunately, pointing fingers at who's to blame for the delay.

In an attempt to clear up any confusion and to resolve any conflicts, Scott Cole attended the Select Board meeting on August 6. Scott Jenssen began by saying, "We all want the same thing: to open store." Scott Cole agreed, but has been dealing with what he referred to as "newly added items from the last inspection," including installation of emergency lighting and a second railing for the interior step. According to Melissa Noe, these additional items resulted from a newly revised floor plan submitted to the building inspector. Scott Cole was unaware that such a revision would require the additional work. This confusion and frustration has led to a breakdown in communication and feelings of ill will.

The following week, Building Inspector Don Torrico attended the Select Board meeting and explained that "a change of floor plan can expand occupant load, but once the store is occupied, there's no requirement for an inspector to come back." Don believed that only a few items, such as emergency lighting and exit discharge lighting, an exit sign for the kitchen exit, handrails for second means of egress, and the interior handrail, needed to be installed before the project could move forward.

In recent years, building codes have become more detailed and inspections have become more rigorous, both of which

make a project, such as opening a general store, more complex, expensive, and time consuming. But once all the requirements have been met, they never have to be dealt with again.

Scott Cole and the Select Board expressed regret and apologized for any statements that may have been inflammatory. It's the consensus of all those involved that opening the store on a limited basis would be a first step to creating an income stream and providing some much-needed working capital. Scott Jenssen also wanted to remind everyone clamoring for a general store that we not only must support Scott Cole in spirit but with our wallets. No general store has a chance to survive and hopefully thrive without a commitment from all of us to shop regularly at the store, rather than making the trip into Great Barrington. With gas prices on the rise, patronizing the general store might even save some money and will definitely reduce carbon emissions.

For his part, Scott Cole will be expanding the store's hours and has some exciting plans in the works, once the store can be opened. With all the unforeseen delays, Scott is hesitant to say exactly when that will be. So let's just say that Monterey residents should be able to begin enjoying the benefits of a general store sometime in the coming weeks.

Police Report

Select Board chair Scott Jenssen asked Chief GarethBackhaus to follow up on a loose dog not under the owner's control at the DCR building in Beartown State Forest.

Chief Backhaus recommended promoting Officer Michael Johnson to the position of sergeant. The Chief stated that Michael has shown outstanding dedication to the Town as well as a high degree of professionalism, knowledge of the job, and outstanding organizational and leadership skills. Michael will be attending training class for sergeants in September. The Chief also recommended a $0.50 an hour pay raise (to be covered through the police budget), along with a further review of the position by the ECAC. The Select Board agreed that this is well deserved and voted unanimously to promote Officer Johnson to sergeant.

The Select Board inquired about how reverse 911 works. Currently the sheriff's office has the capability to send these out throughout Berkshire County. It will not call unlisted numbers or cell phones. Chief Backhaus stated that individual towns can also subscribe to a private company for this service for approximately $3,500 a year, plus an additional per-message charge.

The Select Board also reported that they have received many appreciative comments about the police department's efforts to more strictly enforce the posted speed limits.

Recent police activities include:

- Call from gentleman on Pixley Rd. praising Officer Mullen on a job well done.
- Abandoned 911 call at KSA: misdial.
- Medical call, Lake Ave. Party was driven to hospital before police arrived.
- Call on Main Rd. regarding a bear in yard—police scared it off.
- Lost dog on Hupi Rd.—found and returned.
- Medical call on Tyringham Rd.—assisted Fire Dept.
- "Suspicious Activity" reported on Blue Hill Rd (multiple calls)—unfounded.
- Family disturbance on Pine St.
- Lockout on Tyringham Rd.
- Trees in road on New Marlborough—removed.
- False alarms on Main Rd., Hupi Rd., and Brett Rd.
- Assisted Great Barrington Police Department locating party involved in hit-and-run fender bender.
- Call received from someone on Point Rd .who heard calls for help on other side of lake. Fire Department responded on Lime Rock; party had fallen.
- Uncovered storm drain on Sylvan Rd. Highway department took care of it.

Otis Farmer's Market
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Saturdays 9am-1pm
See what's happening in September!
***9/1: Kid Safety Day**
***9/8: Apple Bake-Off**
***9/15: Live Wood Carving Demo**
***9/22: Costume Day**
***9/29: A Taste Of Pumpkin**
***10/6: Fall Festival**
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Saturdays at 4:30 pm
At the
Meeting House, Rt. 57
New Marlborough, MA

Sept 1 Bach's Musical Offering
Free pre-concert talk, 3:30 p.m.
Christopher Krueger, Daniel Stepner, Jane Starkman, Laura Jeppesen, John Gibbons, on baroque instruments

Sept 8 Daedalus String Quartet
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Sept 15 Boston Classical Trio
Free pre-concert talk, 4 p.m.
Susanna Ogata, violin; Guy Fishman, cello; Ian Watson, fortepiano
Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schubert

Sept 22 Brahms Violin Sonatas and Mendelssohn
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Robert Levin, piano • Daniel Stepner, violin

Sept 29 Jazz, Latin, and World Fusion
Vocalist Maria Rivas; Paul Green, Jewish/Jazz Project
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Oct 6 Award-Winning Authors
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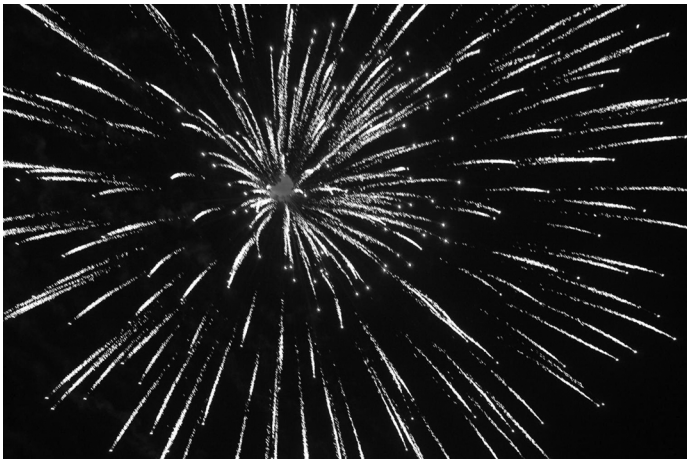

MontereyFest 2012: Fishing and fireworks. (Photos by Dorene Beller)

- Walk-in found a canoe; anyone who has lost a canoe should contact Chief Backhaus.
- Loose dog on Blue Hill Rd.; returned to owner at Blue Hill Farm.
- Two loose dogs reported on Pixley; returned to owner.
- Summons served on Fairview Rd.
- Assisted with fire call on Brett; turned out to be burnt food.
- Call reporting the smell of wood burning; turned out to be a BBQ using wood chips to cook.
- two-car MVA on Main Rd.; no injuries.
- Incident off Sylvan Rd; police are investigating.
- Disabled MV at town beach; Officer Johnson and Officer Mullen assisted with getting the car started.
- Mutual Aid call in Great Barrington.

WiredWest

Monica Webb, our WiredWest representative, attended the August 6th Select Board meeting to provide an update on the efforts to bring broadband to our rural community. Monica noted that August 13 will mark the first anniversary of WiredWest, which currently includes 34 towns, from Warwick in southeastern Massachusetts to Egremont.

Recently WiredWest has contracted with Matrix Design Group of East Hanover, NJ, to design the network. Matrix is scheduled to complete its work by early October and, according to the website (http://wired-west.net/), the design "will be used in WiredWest's business plan and for financing."

Monica reported that a questionnaire will be mailed to every household to determine individual interest levels and to get a sense of the size of the subscriber base. Questionnaires will also be available at town hall and the library. But for those of you who want to weigh in early, questionnaires are also available online at https://hugo.jf-olm.com/~wiretnet/card.php. Participation in filling out this card should not be taken lightly. According to the WiredWest website, "The results will be used to support financing and in decisions relating to where and when towns will be wired. We urge all WiredWest town residents and businesses to complete the card by September 15, 2012.

Tree Warden

Discussions continue about filling the now-vacated position of tree warden. Interim suggestions have included contracting with John Fields or having the Highway Department fill in until an official tree warden has been appointed, since Maynard Forbes estimated that the job only requires two to three hours of work a week. Select Board member Wayne Burkhart also pointed out that the responsibilities of the Highway Department dovetail nicely with those of the tree warden.

Although the tree warden has always been an elected official, Select Board members have been discussing the possibility of changing it to an appointed position and to create a detailed job description with a strong preference for an arborist. Such a change to an existing bylaw would require a vote at a town meeting, an election, and approval from the state attorney general.

At the August 20th Select Board meeting, Scott Jenssen announced that Don Torrico had submitted a letter expressing

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interest in becoming the interim tree warden, and Maynard Forbes is also interested in taking on those responsibilities. Scott said he would ask Maynard to submit a formal letter of interest.

At the August 27th meeting, Roger Tryon, who had been Monterey's tree warden for many years, felt that the position should continue to be an elected one, though an interim appointment would be all right. At that time, Scott asked whether Roger might be interested in assuming those responsibilities himself. Roger responded that he would consider it and would get back to the board with his decision.

Senior Tax-Abatement Program

Throughout the month, the Select Board has been discussing the need to clarify the guidelines and to streamline the process for interested seniors to participate in the tax-abatement program. The program gives residents sixty years and older the opportunity to volunteer their time to the town to reduce their property tax bill. Tasks might include volunteering at the library, providing a service at town hall, or monitoring and organizing the Swap Shop. Participants are credited at the rate of $8 an hour, up to $1,000 per person.

Please contact town treasurer Pat Mielke (pmtreas@yahoo.com) 528-1443, ext. 202, with any questions.

Swap Shack

The quality of swappable items at the swap shack at the transfer station has been called into question, and some have noted that recent offerings have been deemed unswappable. Although it's admirable to try to find another home for items rather than to throw them away, some things have lived out their usefulness and should be put out of their misery.

Second-Homeowners' Meeting

Scott Jenssen attended the second-homeowners' meeting and reported the following suggestions and requests that were discussed.

Many questions and comments had to do with traffic around the lake. Homeowners noted that cars were speeding around the lake and requested additional signs, a more visible police presence, or even seasonal speed bumps at the top of the hill. Others noted that additional assistance for parking would be helpful.

Additional requests included extending transfer station hours on three-day weekends and creating dump stickers that would use a means of identification other than a license-plate number, so that family members not driving the same car or vacationers renting a house could also use the dump. Melissa Noe noted that vacationers could apply for a vacationer sticker that's valid for thirty days.

Scott also mentioned that there were requests to put the cell tower overlay map on Monterey's website. This is being considered, but in the meantime, Melissa said that the map is available at town hall to anyone interested.

Finally, Scott would like to find another, more inclusive and equitable name other than "second homeowners." Any suggestions will be welcomed.

Town Clerk Benefits

At the August 6th Select Board Meeting, the discussion continued about whether to provide Town Clerk Deborah Mielke with health-care benefits. The Finance Committee was asked to weigh in on the subject and suggested that the issue be put on hold until the town clerk is up to speed on the responsibilities of her job as well as more proficient with the new computer systems.

Select Board member Wayne Burkhart thanked the Finance Committee for their input but thought the board should go ahead and provide Deborah with benefits. Select Board member Muriel Lazzarini said that some years ago "the Select Board had determined that the town clerk's position was a twenty-hour a week job, so we'll have to prove a negative," adding that state law mandates that a job requiring twenty hours of work per week must include benefits. And Select Board chairperson Scott Jenssen commented that "tabling benefits would be unfair to Debbie."

Also in attendance on August 6 was Town Accountant Steve Pullen to answer

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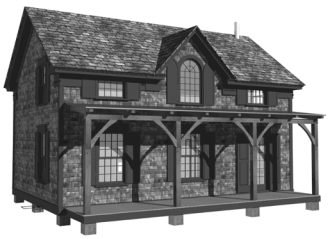

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the question about where the funding for the health-care insurance would come from. Steve reported that the money could come from the town's reserve fund or possibly from overlay funds. Scott also noted that money had been set aside for an assistant town clerk, and if an assistant wasn't needed, those funds might also be used for health insurance.

Ultimately, the Select Board decided that the twenty-hour a week position deserves to receive health-care benefits. Scott concluded that "Debbie has been in the office four days a week, and that satisfies the profile."

Melissa Noe also noted that people have expressed their appreciation for the town clerk's increased availability.

Other Items

The official raising of the Monterey Town Flag will be held at 9 am on September 10 at Town Hall.

A resident of Monterey who has reportedly been experiencing ongoing harassment from electronic devices in motor vehicles has requested permission to install surveillance cameras on a town road to record license-plate numbers of the alleged perpetrators. The Select Board is looking into this matter and continues to support the police department's efforts to deal with this situation.

Town Treasurer Pat Mielke requested permission to appoint an assistant treasurer for two to three hours per week whose salary would be paid out of the treasurer's budget. The Select Board approved a two-month probationary period. ॐ

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Cultural Council Grants Application Deadline Oct. 15

Do you have a special talent or know-how you'd like to share with Monterey? Each year the Town of Monterey, in conjunction with the Massachusetts Cultural Council, offers small grants to prepare a program, event, or experience that will share your art, humanities, cultural, or scientific expertise with our community. In the past, programs have varied from mushroom walks to song writing to studio tours. Now it's time for you to invent our cultural opportunities for the coming year.

Organizations, schools, and/or individuals can apply for grants. It's simple to apply. These grants can support a variety of artistic, cultural, and scientific projects and activities in and near Monterey—including exhibits, festivals, field trips, performances, workshops, and/or lectures. Specific guidelines and complete information with application forms are available online at the Massachusetts Cultural Council website: www.mass-culture.org or www.mass-culture.org/lcc_public.asp.

All applications must be postmarked on or before October 15, 2012, to be considered.

The Monterey Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 local cultural councils serving all 351 cities and towns in the commonwealth. The program is the largest grassroots cultural funding network in the nation, supporting thousands of community-based projects in the arts, sciences, and humanities every year. The state legislature provides an annual appropriation to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency, which then allocates funds to each community. In the 2012 grant year, for activities in 2013, combining our local dollars and $3,870 allocated by the state to our local cultural council, the Monterey Cultural Council will distribute about 10–20 small grants for cultural activities. The grants will be awarded on a competitive basis. We hope to include performance and hands-on opportunities that reflect diverse offerings in the arts, science, and other cultural events of interest. Although we fund regional projects, we prioritize projects that are inclusive and reflective of our town's population and interests.

Contact us for more information: Pat Salomon, drpatsalomon@aol.com, 413-644-8833; or Wendy Jensen wendyjg@gmail.com, 413-528-4007.

ॐ

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Primary Day September 6

Thursday, September 6, is state primary election day in Monterey. The polls at the Monterey Firehouse will be open from 7 am to 8 pm. Voters registered as Unenrolled may vote in the party of their choice. The race of most interest is the Democratic race for US Representative; Richard Neal, Andrea Nuciforo, and Bill Shein are vying for the seat in the recently redrawn 1st District (Rep. John Olver is retiring). Since there is no Republican or Green-Rainbow candidate, the winner of this race will be our new Representative in Congress.

Democratic Party Ballot

Senator in Congress: Vote for One
Elizabeth Warren
Representative in Congress: Vote for One
Richard E. Neal
Andrea F. Nuciforo, Jr.
Bill Shein
Councillor: Vote for One
Michael J. Albano
Gerry Roy
Kevin J. Sullivan
Senator in General Court: Vote for One
Benjamin B. Downing
Representative in General Court: Vote for One
William "Smitty" Pignatelli
Clerk of Courts: Vote for One
Deborah S. Capeless
Registrar of Deeds: Vote for One
Blank

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Cultural Council Seeks Member

The Monterey Cultural Council works to enrich the cultural and intellectual life of Monterey by distributing grants from the state and local government for art and science programs that are valuable for our residents. We are interested in identifying one or more persons, for council membership, who can support the council's work by their knowledge of Excel, Web page updating, and/or graphic computer programs. Previous and potential grant recipients are welcome to apply. If interested, or if you have questions, call or email: drpatsalomon@aol.com, 413-644-8833.

Republican Party Ballot

Senator in Congress: Vote for One
Scott P. Brown
Representative in Congress:
Blank
Councillor: Vote for One
Michael F. Case
Michael Franco
Senator in General Court: Vote for One
Blank
Representative in General Court: Vote for One
Blank
Clerk of Courts: Vote for One
Blank
Register of Deeds: Vote for One
Blank

Green-Rainbow Party

Representative in General Court: Vote for One
Lee Scott Laugenour
(All other positions on the Green-Rainbow ballot are blank.)

Carlson, Makuc Win Dohoney Scholarships

Two Monterey students were among twelve students who received scholarships from the Honorable James P. Dohoney Scholarship Fund, which supports graduating high school seniors who are residents of south Berkshire County. Scholarships were awarded to Jonah Carlson to attend Reed College and to Gabriella Makuc to attend Lawrence University. Other students awarded scholarships included Tara Sullivan of New Marlborough to attend the University of Rochester and Samantha Swartz of Sandisfield to attend Worcester Polytechnic University.

"I would like to express my deepest gratitude toward the foundation and all who support it for making it possible for me to follow my dream of studying at both a conservatory of music and a college of liberal arts," said Gabriella Makuc. "Thank you for helping my generation reach its full potential. I will begin a double degree program at Lawrence University in the fall, studying music education and the humanities. I want to explore the connections between these subjects and others, and, after college, build community as a teacher."

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WiredWest Survey

As many of you know, last year Monterey voted to join WiredWest, a fiber-optic network being designed for towns in Western Massachusetts—like Monterey—that are unserved or underserved by high-speed internet service. This network will serve us for decades and will drive regional economic development, create jobs, improve education and healthcare, and enable a sustainable future for our communities.

WiredWest is finalizing the business plan, and one vital piece of information is expressed interest in service from potential subscribers. Over the next few weeks, WiredWest support cards are being mailed to households in participating towns in order for residents to indicate their interest in Internet, phone and/or TV/video services. Alternatively, you can complete a support card online (https://hugo.jf-olm.com/~wiretnet/card.php).

It's critically important that as many Monterey residents as possible complete the cards. The results will be used to support financing and in decisions relating to where and when towns will be wired. We want all of Monterey to have access to this state-of-the-art network. And please be sure to share the online link to the card with your neighbors as well.

Let me know if you have any questions (monica@wiredwest.net). You can also visit the website at www.wiredwest.net

—Monica Webb

Jamie's Court Update

A new basketball court is being built in Green Park and donated to the Town of Monterey in loving memory of Jamie Bogdanoff, a lifelong summer resident of Lake Garfield and regular Sunday morning hoopster who lost his battle with cancer at age 47. We need your continued support!

Shortly after Jamie passed away on February 29, 2008, some friends and family began a crusade to raise money to build a new basketball court for the town. We set up the Fund for Jamie's Court with Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation for donations, and over the years we raised in excess of $13,000, which has been turned over to the town for construction. The town approved the project in the spring of 2012, and we are grateful for the assistance of Josh Allentuck, Chairperson of the Parks Commission in acting as a liaison.

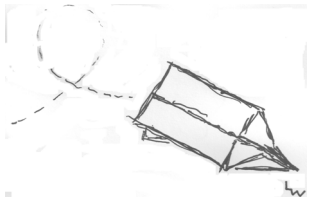
On Sunday mornings, from Memorial Day until Labor Day each year, beginning in the mid 1970s, Jamie, Randy Gelbard, and I played basketball at Green Park with a group of guys, including Monterey residents Jay Amidon and Scott Jervas. Many of us continue to play on Sunday mornings, and there are often fifteen or more players there, ranging from teenagers to guys in their fifties. The new court will provide an improved synthetic surface and new fiberglass backboards and rims that can be adjusted very easily, even by children. Construction bids have been obtained, and we are getting closer to breaking ground. Unfortunately, the delay of the past four years has resulted in our needing an additional $7,000 in donations due to increased construction costs and fees charged by Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation.

We are confident that with your assistance, the first game on the new court will be played in spring 2013. Please continue to support the construction of this new court, which will benefit the community for present and future generations.

Please send all donations to: Fund for Jamie's Court: a fund of Berkshire Taconic Community Foundation, 800 N. Main Street, PO Box 400, Sheffield, MA 01257-0400; phone 413-229-0370; info@berkshiretaconic.org.

We greatly appreciate the support of the community and the *Monterey News* to Jamie's Court and making it become a reality.

—Greg Carnese



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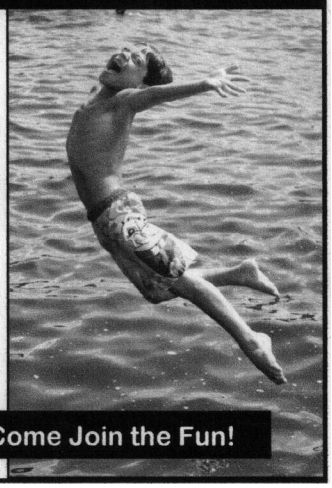

Come Join the Fun!

Montereyfest 2012– A Smashing Success!

MontereyFest 2012, held on Saturday August 18, was a smashing success. The weather cooperated, and residents and guests had a fun time from early morning until late night. The day brought people together—full time, second homeowner families, and other visitors—to celebrate life in the wonderful Monterey community.

Daytime activities were well attended—more than thirty families participated in the Hatchery Fishing Derby, coordinated by Gerry Clarin and Julio Rodriguez. Alexandra Green of NYC, 11 years old, won first prize with her catch of a 40-cm-long trout that weighed in at 2 lbs., 6 oz. Second place went to Monterey resident Miriam Dube, age 5, with an equally long catch that weighed 1 lb., 13 oz. Tim and Lily Goodwin of Otis, won third prize with a 37-cm brook trout.

The Library Sing-A-Long attracted lots of young ones. Approximately seventy walkers showed up for the Gould Farm/ Diane's Trail Walk and followed Trail Guide Bob Rausch for a beautiful mile and a half hike that ended with a homemade lunch buffet, compliments of Gould Farm Harvest Barn and arranged by Mike Covell.

The beach was filled with families and the children participated in games organized by Berkshire South Regional Community Center volunteers, along with Monterey residents Zac and Annie Transport. The beach activities were coordinated by our own Emily Shaw. The famous Monterey face-painters, headed by Ginny Allentuck, created lots of scary monsters and beautiful princesses who proudly pranced around the beach. Boat rides around Lake Garfield, captained by Hy Rosen and Elliot and Ika Small, were the highlight of the day for many families. Roger the Jester's mime and silly antics brought laughter to children and their parents. And as the day progressed, the beach filled up with picnickers who came for the evening festivities and to have their fill of barbequed hot dogs and hamburgers. To the dismay of some parents, many of the children ate their dessert first, as Bob Rausch built a perfect wood fire on the beach and provided sticks and marshmallows for roasting!

MontereyFest 2012 Volunteers at beach party. (Photo by Dorene Beller)

But the real "Fest" came as the sun started to set and the DJ began to spin his great music. Mimi Rosenblatt, fitness and Zumba instructor at Functional Fitness, motivated adults and children alike to join in on the fun. With glow sticks around their heads and necks, people filled the "dance floor" and continued to dance nonstop until the fireworks began at 9 pm. It looked like a real beach party—just like you see on the set of a Hollywood movie!

The Monterey Police and Fire Departments made it possible for folks to view the fireworks—and those fireworks were really spectacular! Everyone was in awe as the colored patterns lit up an already star-filled sky. It was a perfect finale for the day.

None of this would have been possible without the support of the Town of Monterey, the Monterey Parks Department, local businesses who advertised in the MontereyFest 2012 Program, and individual contributions from residents of Monterey. Special thanks to the many volunteers who gave their time so that others could enjoy a fabulous day.

And a special tip of many hats to Dorene Beller (who wrote this piece) and Mayra Rodriguez for spearheading the work that made this special day possible! —Ed.

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Monterey Community Center News

The Monterey Community Center Capital Campaign is off to a great start! Thank you to those who have contributed thus far!

With the Capital Campaign underway and the Community Center projected to open in 2014, questions pertaining to the actual use and management of such a facility have been posed. For example: Who will be allowed to use the Community Center and would there be a fee for its use? How would one sign up to use the facility, and who would manage scheduling its use? Would the community center be open year-round? Would families be allowed to rent the facility (for weddings or birthday celebrations, for example)? How will the building be maintained—will our taxes have to pay for that?

In an attempt to answer these questions, we'd like to share what our committee and the Select Board have envisioned: We expect the Community Center to be a facility for anyone to use, year-round. There will not be a membership fee for use. If a group of artists, knitters, or quilters, for example, wants to gather there, there would be no cost associated. If an individual schedules a class such as yoga or jewelry making, and that individual charges participants, then the "teacher" may be required to pay a fee to the MCC to help offset maintenance costs. Each group using the MCC would be expected to clean up after themselves. Heavier cleaning jobs and maintenance costs will need to be worked out once the facility is up and running.

In the first year or so of operation, we expect that volunteers or someone designated by the Select Board will take on the role of "scheduler." Sign-up for use would be on a first-come first-serve basis. As the building is small and only the first floor is being renovated (yielding two rooms, plus a kitchen and bathroom), large indoor functions would not be feasible. The grounds may accommodate larger events, if approved by the town boards.

Finally, it has been the goal of the FWMH (Friends of the Wilson McLaughlin House (FWMH) to raise the money to create the MCC and to create a long-term fund to maintain the building, and to provide the needs for the first two years of operation. FWMH will continue to be involved beyond that time frame, but it has always been understood that the townspeople and the town government would carry out the continued operation of the MCC.

Many plans, timelines, budget projections, and details are available on our website: www.ccmonterey.org. We welcome your questions and dialogue about the future MCC and, again, thank you for your support!

—Evelyn Vallianos , FWMH

New England Cottontail Conservation Efforts

Staff from the Massachusetts Division of Fisheries & Wildlife, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and Department of Conservation and Recreation will be presenting information for landowners, foresters, and conservationists about conservation efforts for New England Cottontail in the Southern Berkshires. Topics will include the Rangewide New England Cottontail Initiative, habitat management, forest management, and rabbit surveys. Come learn how you may be able to contribute to the effort! Contact Marianne Piché at 508-389-6313 or via email, marianne.piche@state.ma.us for more details.

There will be a presentation at Monterey United Church of Christ, 449 Main Road Monterey, on Friday September 21, from 5:00–6:00 pm.

Additional presentations are scheduled on Wednesday, September 19, 7:00–8:00 pm at Sandisfield Public Library, 23 Sandisfield Rd. (Route 57), Sandisfield, and on Tuesday, September 25, 6:00–7:00 at Otis Public Library 48 North Main Rd., Otis.

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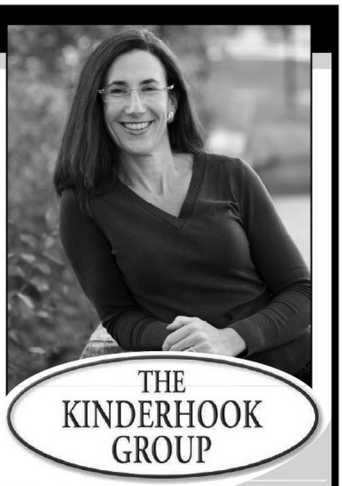

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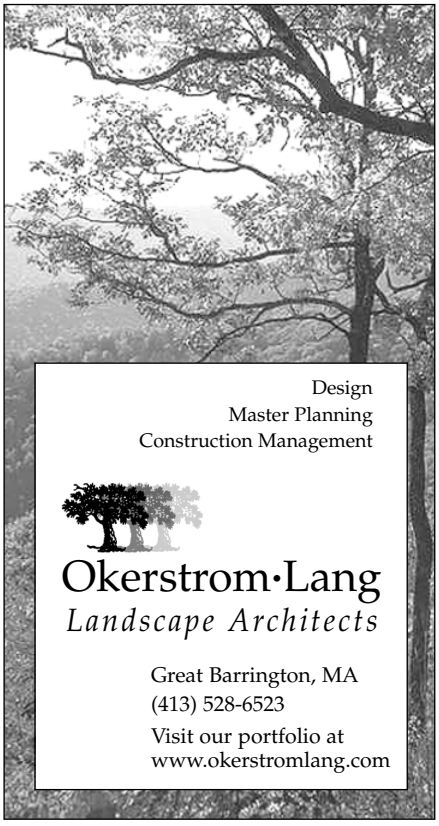

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Bidwell House Intern Cracks Reverend's Code

Each summer, the Bidwell House Museum hires high school students as "Young History Scholar Interns." The internship program, thanks to donations and grants, gives 10 local students the opportunity to work at the museum. Many Monterey youths have participated over the years, which is wonderful for the museum and I hope for them.

As part of their internship, each student gets to choose a research project. Students have written great research articles on architecture, furnishings, artifacts, and early history for the museum's newsletter. One of our interns this year, Shelby Sebring of Lanesborough, a sophomore at Pittsfield High, told me that she was hoping to be a cryptologist some day. Hearing of this interest, I suggested that as her project she take a look at the sermons written by the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell.

Bidwell, the first minister in "Housatonic Township No. 1," today's Tyringham and Monterey, wrote his sermons in a private code: a mixture of English, Greek, Latin, symbols, and shorthand. Over the decades, many have taken a look at his sermon texts, but, to my knowledge, no one has been able to—or taken the time necessary to—crack Bidwell's code. Shelby Sebring was quickly hooked on the project. She found a book on eighteenth-century shorthand to consult and began to chart the texts. After two weeks of intensive analysis, she finished deciphering one complete sermon text.

Barbara Palmer

Bidwell House intern making a craft with Stephon McAlister at Township No. 1 Day.

This is very exciting for the museum! The four small pages of handwritten code turned into eight typed pages, once the scripture passages and decoded words were included. The message of this particular sermon is a warning about the evils of pride!

Nevertheless, the museum was very proud of Shelby's work and we contacted the *Berkshire Eagle* in case they were interested in writing about it. Jenn Smith from the *Eagle* visited the museum to interview Shelby and me, and her article appeared in the "Learning" section on July 31. You can find it on the museum's website: www.bidwellhousemuseum.org.

Interest in the sermons and Shelby's work did not stop there: the *Boston Globe* published the *Eagle* article a few days later, and then the Boston Public Radio station WBUR called. Monterey's own museum made it into national media this year! I hope to put the full sermon project on the museum's website this fall.

None of this would be possible without the community's support of the museum and the museum's education programs—thank you!

—Barbara Palmer, Executive Director
The Bidwell House Museum

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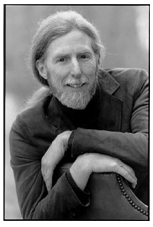

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National Magazine Honors Wendy Jensen, Basketmaker

Wendy Jensen of Monterey won the highest award as a traditional artisan for her willow baskets in this year's Directory of Traditional American Crafts, and her work is showcased in the 2012 August issue of *Early American Life* magazine. She ranks top in her field, according to a panel of national experts convened by the magazine. The experts—curators from such prestigious institutions as the National Trust, Museums of Colonial Williamsburg, American Folk Art Museum, George Washington's Mount Vernon, Historic Hudson Valley, Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts, Old Sturbridge

Village, Hancock Shaker Village and Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill, Strawbery Banke Museum, and the Frontier Culture Museum, as well as antiques dealers, independent scholars, and professional instructors—selected the top craftspeople working with traditional tools and techniques for the magazine's 27th annual Directory of Traditional American Crafts. Jensen's handcraft showed mastery of the art form, heritage techniques, and workmanship, according to the judges.

The Directory of Traditional American Crafts has been used for nearly three decades by curators at living history museums, owners of traditional homes, and motion picture producers to find artisans to make period-appropriate furnishings and accessories for displays, collections, and use.

"The judges look for authentic design and workmanship, whether the piece is a faithful reproduction or the artisan's interpretation of period style," said Tess Rosch, publisher of *Early American Life*. "Scholarship, as well as use of period tools and techniques, is particularly valued in this competition." One goal of the Directory is to help preserve traditional handcrafts, part of our culture that is rapidly being lost in the digital age. Many of these skills were passed down from master to apprentice for hundreds of years, but now few new people choose to learn and master them. "If our traditional arts are lost, we have forgotten a part of who we are as Americans," Rosch said.

Wendy's baskets can be viewed on wendygjensenbaskets.com.

Mushroom Talk, Walk

Begin the brisk fall days by joining a mushroom talk and walk with local mushroom guru John Wheeler. The program, sponsored by your Monterey Cultural Council, begins with slides and samples shown at the Monterey Library, and will be followed by a mushroom-finding walk. Join us Sunday, September 23, 9:30 am–12:30 pm. It's a free, three-hour program that you'll surely enjoy.

Meet at the Monterey Firehouse Pavilion. Registration is not required.

For additional information, call Roz Halberstadt, 528-4438.

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Route 23 Monterey

Mary Kate Jordan

Maureen Banner

Wildlife in August

Early in the month we heard from Kyle Pierce on Lake Buel that she'd seen an American egret perched on a branch near the water. She watched as it preened and engaged in casual stretching. These big egrets are white, but Kyle noticed hers looked greenish on the underside. This is often the case with white birds over water. It's a reflection. Tropical gulls look like their underfeathers are bright blue!

MaryKate Jordan of Stevens Pond has had an egret visiting, too, big and white on August 12. On August 19, Steve Snyder was out on Lake Garfield and the big birds he saw that night were a bald eagle and an osprey, in the neighborhood of Parker's Cove and Bullhead Rock.

Keith O'Brien, near the top of Blue Hill Road, is still reporting bobcats. This one showed up crossing the road about 1:00 pm on August 11.

Ed Salsitz, on Beartown Mountain. Road, has been noticing the smaller creatures: mud-dauber wasps have built their nurseries on his place, mud cylinders with eggs inside. He also sent in a photo of a hickory tussock moth (see essay p. 16).

On Griswold Road, Mo Banner reports white-tailed deer, two does and two fawns, also two kinds of frogs, leopard and green, in the pond, and a grasshopper or two (right photo). She also has chanterelles growing on a birch log.

On August 3, Michael and Lois Storch were visited by a sharp-shinned hawk. These small hawks can be hard to distinguish from Cooper's hawks, and both kinds prey on other birds, including those that come to the feeders, also bigger fare such as chickens. We once had one here on Hupi Road, trying to get hold of a chicken that outweighed it by quite a bit. The chicken prevailed and the hawk went off hungry.

On August 21, after a Monterey News board meeting, I paddled east on Lake Garfield about 11:00 pm and surprised a beaver working over the cattails and alders in our swamp. That big splash was a welcome sound: beavers are here, I am here.

Send me your wildlife sightings—and thank you.

—Bonner McAllester, 528-9385
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Monterey Library Recent Acquisitions

Below is a sample of new material in the Monterey Library in recent months. Come in and browse.

These books and movies are newly released and in high demand by all users of CWMARS. If you'd like to borrow them you will probably need to place a hold on them through your CWMARS account, or you can call the library (528-3795) or come by during open hours.

Adult Fiction

The Absent One, Jussi Adler-Olsen
The Twelve Rooms of the Nile, Enid Shomer
Memoirs of an Imaginary Friend, Matthew Dicks
Simple, Kathleen George
Winter Journal, Paul Austen
Survivor, Gregg Horowitz
The Resistance, Peter Steiner
And When She Was Good, Laura Lippman
The Case of the Deadly Butter Chicken, Tarquin Hall
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, Rachel Joyce
Swimming for Elba, Silvia Avallone
Beastly Things, Donna Leon
Midwife of Venice, Roberto Rich
Henry on the Couch, Rebecca Soodak
The Book of Lost Fragrances, M. J. Rose
Elegy for Eddie, Jacqueline Winspear
The Book of Madness and Cures, Regina O'Melveny

Adult Nonfiction

The Scent of Scandal: Greed, Betrayal and the World's Most Beautiful Orchids, Craig Pittman
Fooling Houdini: Magicians, Mentalists, Math Geeks, & the Hidden Powers of the Mind, Alex Stone
Marilyn, Lois Banner
Visit Sunny Chernobyl, Andrew Blackwell
The Mark Inside: A Perfect Swindle, Amy Reading
The Good, the Bad, and the Barbie: A Doll's History, Tanya Lee Stone
Battleground Pacific: A Marine's Combat Odyssey, Sterling Mace & Nick Allen
The Years of Lyndon Johnson: The Passage of Power, Robert A Caro
Farther Away, Jonathan Franzen

Young Adult

Secret Letters, Leah Scheier
The Night She Disappeared, April Henry
Endlessly, Kiersten White
The Obsidian Blade, Pete Hautman

DVD

Julia
As Good as Dead
V for Vendetta
A Woman, a Gun and a Noodle Shop
Beyond the Steppes
Don't Tell
Jiro Dreams of Sushi
xXx
Salmon Fishing in the Yemen
Works in Progress
Babar
Letter Never Sent

Free Composting Workshop at Lee Library

It won't be long until the leaves start falling. Will you be ready? Stockpile those leaves and learn how to turn your food and yard waste into "black gold" for your house plants, garden, and lawn while also reducing the amount of waste that goes to incinerators and landfills. Join us at the Lee Library (100 Main Street, Lee) on Tuesday, September 11, for a no cost "Home Composting Made Easy" workshop provided by the Center for EcoTechnology from 6:30–7:30 pm. Attendees will participate in a hands-on demonstration of how to build an efficient and active compost pile; you will gain all the knowledge you need to start composting at your home.

Come see how easy composting really is and how you may even save money by reducing waste disposal. In addition, composting helps prevent the buildup of methane in landfills by diverting organic waste. This helps reduce the methane released into the atmosphere and prevents some additional buildup of global warming gasses. You may even be able to save additional funds by reducing the amount of topsoil or compost you buy from the store.

Please RSVP by calling CET at 413-445-4556 ext. 30 or email Aric at Aric.Brown@cetonline.org.

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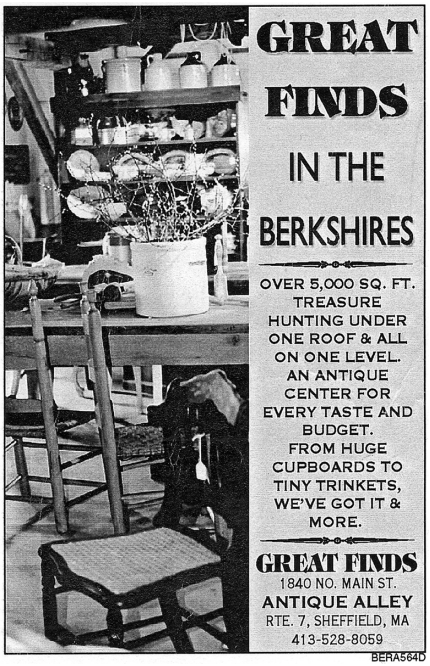
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"Garden Gustation"

What's cooking from Monterey Gardens & Farms

Beautiful Braconids and the Horrific Hornworms

Sounds like a children's book, eh? This last week of cooler nights and the shortening daylight are all signals that the garden is winding down and the wild preserving is (hopefully) well underway. Our tomato growing has been a bit disappointing this year, but we are so thankful for the tomatoes we do have. I overdid it again this year with too many tomato seedlings that I just couldn't bear to throw out, so I planted them all: Sungold Cherry, Black Cherry, Prudence Purple, Cherokee Purple, Green Zebra, Amish Paste, Tiffen Mennonite (a new heirloom variety for us), and Pink Accordions. I won't confess here how many we ended up planting, but since the tomato harvest has been compromised this season, let's just say I'm glad we had a "few" extra. We try to grow enough tomatoes to get us to the next tomato season, a different sort of calendar year. We try not to buy tomatoes out of season if we can. This makes this season all the more precious. We eat tomato sandwiches almost daily, tomato, basil, and mozzarella salad, roasted tomatoes, stuffed tomatoes, whatever we can think of. We attempt to satiate our hunger for the wonderful fruit while it's here. Now, last year I told you about our roasted Glut Sauce, but this year, fresh salsa.

But first, the beginning of the end for some of our tomato plants; of course, my husband Stephen's favorites were hit first, the Cherokee Purples. Now, if you've never seen a tomato hornworm, they are really something to see, if you can find them. If you don't say "Oh, gross" when you see one, you must be an entomologist. They can be as big as your index finger, no kidding. But they can also be beautiful if you don't care about having any tomato plants. They are a luscious light green color, with white markings on their sides and a bit of a "horn" on their tail end. They blend in perfectly with the tomato stems. One certain way to find them is to wait until you find a simple skeleton of a once lush tomato plant. They can munch the leaves down in no time flat. I bet you could even hear the munching if you listened hard enough. The first time we had them I thought the deer had grazed our tomato plants!

I don't consider myself to be a particularly squeamish person, but I find it really hard to take care of these large, juicy, soft-bodied creatures (maybe that was a bit too descriptive). Removing and flattening them is a disgusting must . . . UNLESS . . . you are lucky enough to find your hornworms covered with small

white cocoons lined up perpendicularly on their backs (photo above). This is Mother Nature to the rescue, the wonderful sign of the Braconid wasp. This small beneficial wasp lays its eggs inside the hornworm. The larvae hatch and spin these cocoons along the back of its host, the hornworm. This process stops the hornworms pretty much in their tracks. DO NOT REMOVE them now. Leave the hornworms alone and the wasps will hatch. The Braconid wasps not only finish the hornworms but they will do the same to aphids as well. At first there were only a few parasitized hornworms, but as time went by, almost all of the hornworms we found were hosting the cocoons. The Beautiful Braconid vs. the Horrific Hornworm, a happy ending, at least for now.

Fresh From the Garden Salsa

(*Underlined ingredients are ours or local.*)

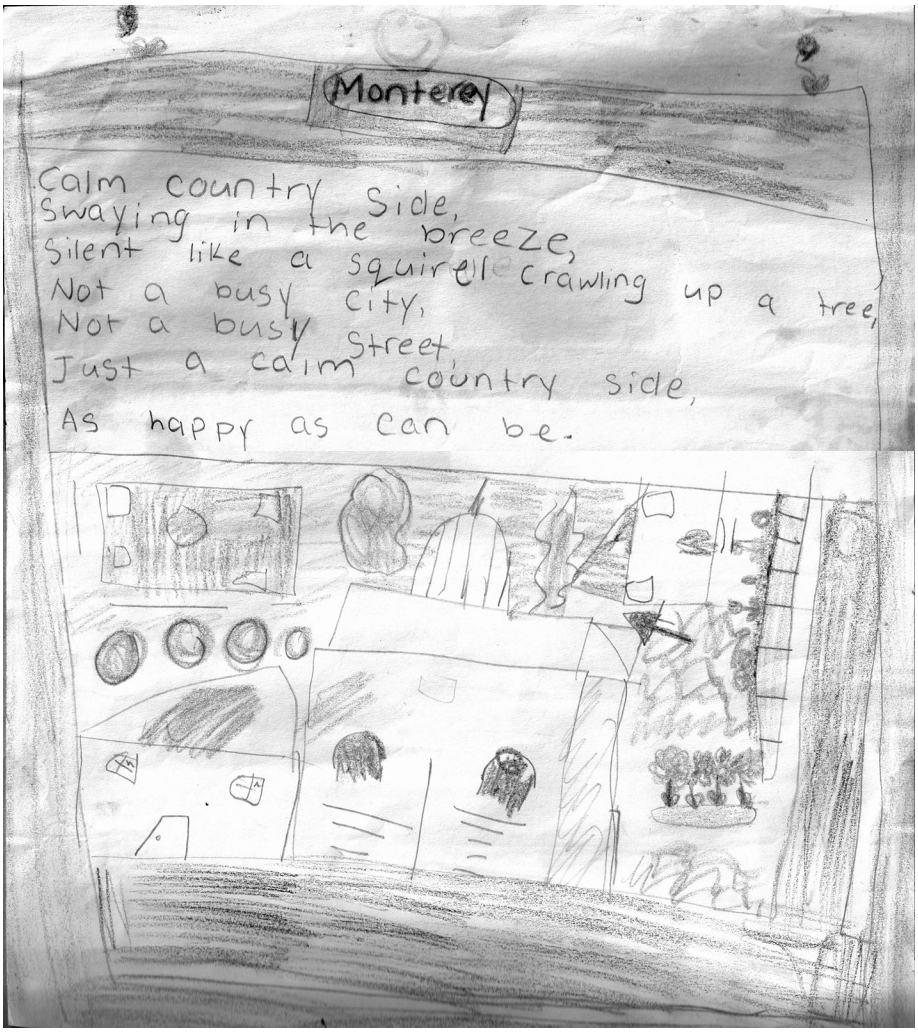
This isn't really a recipe as much as a guideline for a tasty summer salsa. Eat it soon after it is put together for the best flavor. Adjust the ingredients to your taste.

2-3 cored, squeezed and finely chopped tomatoes; at least one paste tomato is nice
1 onion, diced fine
1 green or red pepper, diced fine
1–2 cloves of garlic, crushed
2–3 jalapeno peppers, seeded and diced fine (leave the seeds in if you like your salsa hot)
½ cup chopped cilantro
lime juice, ½ squeezed
salt & pepper to taste

Mix all ingredients in a bowl, adjust seasonings and/or ingredients. Enjoy!

Next month will be fall . . . seems like we just finished planting.

—Wendy G. Jensen
wendygj@gmail.com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Charlotte Micklewright Wins Cultural Council Monterey Day Contest

This summer the Monterey Cultural Council asked all interested children to describe what they liked about Monterey using art and words. The winner of the contest is eight-year-old Charlotte Micklewright. Congratulations to Charlotte for writing a lovely poem and drawing the perfect country home, complete with a garden!

I hear the fish jumping

I hear the fish jumping,
the only one who can touch the moon

You hold on tighter to my hand
as I show you the ripples
and the ways they show are past

The talk of flowers is gone
like the strong wind wisping
off the leaves to get past

How would I know?
that I have to leave my garden
and move on

I have to leave
my garden

—Elisabeth Enoch (Age 10)

Good Grief!

Came on Dovesday
left on Lovesday
sure to return
on Never-know-whens-day
promised to come
on Can't-be-sures-day
bound to arrive
on I'll-be-yours-day
left on Lovesday
back on Dovesday
happy for ever
on Heavens-aboves-day!

—A. O. Howell

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Tufty Youngsters, Two Types

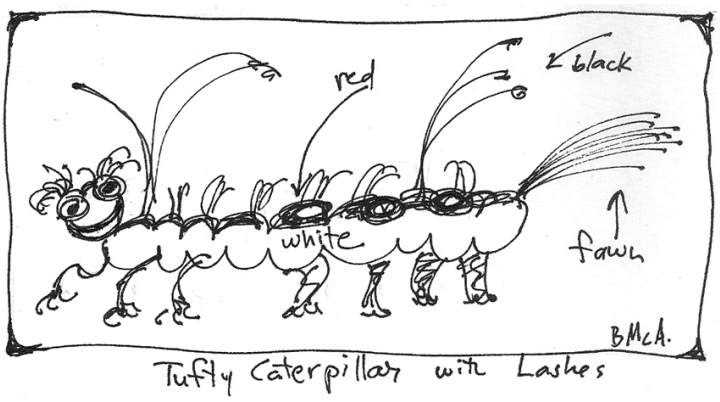
There is a handsome tufty caterpillar in these parts. People are talking, wondering its name and what it may portend. To answer these questions, for myself and for the next person who phones or stops to talk in the post office or sends in a photo, I went to the bookcase.

Caterpillars of Eastern North America, by David L. Wagner, is a so-called field guide. You could take it to the field, but you would need a cargo pocket. You might become lame on one side because this paperback book is heavy with photos and gloss. I was lucky this time because I'd already carried the lightweight caterpillar from the field to the kitchen. With some field guides, such as Trees, Rocks, Mountains, or Clouds, the kitchen meeting place is not such an option.

Our caterpillar showed up first under the hopvines, so we tried to persuade ourselves it was a hop-eating caterpillar, specifically. Then the same kind of creature began appearing all over, including in midair, hanging from a tiny thread.

Caterpillars are neither male nor females, though you might want to argue they are both. Really, they are potential males or females. We'll have to call ours an "it." It is also called *Lophocampa caryae*, or "hickory tussock moth." The creature is white, with black tufts and warts, also many white tufts. Some of the black tufts are extra long, sticking out way beyond all the others. These long ones are referred to as "long black subdorsal lashes," and they do look lovely against the paler background, just like anyone's long black eyelashes.

Some folks want to know right off how this caterpillar stacks up: good guy or bad guy. Do I make a better world by dispatching this small tufty beast, or should my contribution be to get to know it better, research its preferred foods and then provide these, or else transport the youngster to a reliable supply out in the wild?



In the end, this is a personal dilemma we each must face. Eyeball to eyeball with a hickory tussock caterpillar, some of us must break the gaze first and just take the critter outside. Can't figure out the answer, do I encourage this thing or do I squash it? There is always the middle path: make like you never met. Take it outside and let the Grand Plan unfold without your direct intervention. Then, if the world turns out a better place, you won't get the credit. But if it goes the other way, no one can blame you.

My own world is a way better place for my having met the caterpillar. I read about it in the book. I got a call from a neighbor who had a much fancier one sitting on her car, so I grabbed the book, jumped on the bicycle, and sped down there.

Wow. This was a tussock moth of a different stripe: bright red head, four plushy white tufts on the front half, a bold black stripe down the back with two shiny red beads set on top of abdominal sections A6 and A7, plus a long fawn-colored tuft off the last segment.

Open the book, it's a white-marked tussock moth. "White-marked?" This caterpillar is just crazy with white tufts and dots and decorations. It's the adult moth, which is a mousy grey-tan, that

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has a couple of minor white marks on its forewings, hence the name.

These tussock moths hatch out of cocoons, like most moths. The male flies about, but in most species the wingless female never flies, just climbs out of her cocoon and emits a chemical come-hither, or pheromone, that calls a male over. Pheromones are chemical compounds mixed specifically to bring the right couple together. Only another white-marked tussock moth will answer this call.

After mating, the female lays her eggs right there all over her own empty cocoon. They are covered with white froth and there they will stay all winter, to hatch out next year with tufts and red beads and looking for a meal. These white-marked tussock moth caterpillars are not fussy about menu, and neither are the hickory tussocks.

Here are some things they eat: ash, elm, oak, willow, apple, birch, cherry, hickory, rose, fir, hemlock, larch, spruce. Of the hickory tussock moth caterpillar, my book says "to be expected on almost any woody species." As for the white-marked character, the one I bicycled off to see this morning was on a green Toyota Echo.

—Bonner J. McAllester

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From the Meetinghouse
Adonijah, Shelby, Margaret

Congratulations to Shelby Sebring, the Bidwell House intern who cracked the code the Reverend Adonijah Bidwell used to write his mid-eighteenth-century sermons. This small but persistent mystery, solved, opens new channels of communication between our past and the present. Much has changed in Monterey over these 350 years, even without easy access to the Internet.

And yet, we cherish much that has stayed the same, such as the simple fact that remarkable people come and go here in Monterey. Some come to stay for a long time and have a great public impact: Adonijah, for example. Some perch here briefly, impact yet to be determined both ways: Shelby. Some come, live here quietly for a time, and have a great impact anyway.

Last month a Monterey friend and I met in Lee, at the Starving Artist Café. We were on our way to spend time with our mutual friend Margaret Lindsay, or, at least with her memory, at the place where she was buried late last year.

I'd been unable to spend time with Margaret during the last few weeks of her life. My travel had interrupted our weekly visits, and then, down with a cold, I was too sick to visit her in her weakened state. But Margaret several times told me a story about a neighbor who used to visit her and her husband, Joe, when they were householders in Scotland.

Joe would walk the woman back to her own door at the end of her visit, and she appreciated his courtly gesture. And always, as she stood poised to cross the threshold of Margaret and Joe's door, she'd turn to Margaret and express her contentment with their friendship and the evening. "Sure," she'd say, "and if I fall down tonight, it will be a bright day."

We would laugh whenever she said it, and Margaret would make reference to her own imminent crossing of another threshold. So that crossing itself came as no surprise. It just came as a sadness.

Margaret, the two of us at your graveside that recent summer day are only two of the many who miss you now that you're off on yet another adventure. Perhaps it's too much to say that Adonijah has a kindred spirit in young Shelby, but it's certain that many of us found a kindred spirit in Margaret Lindsay. Margaret, may you fare ever so much more than simply well.

—Mary Kate Jordan

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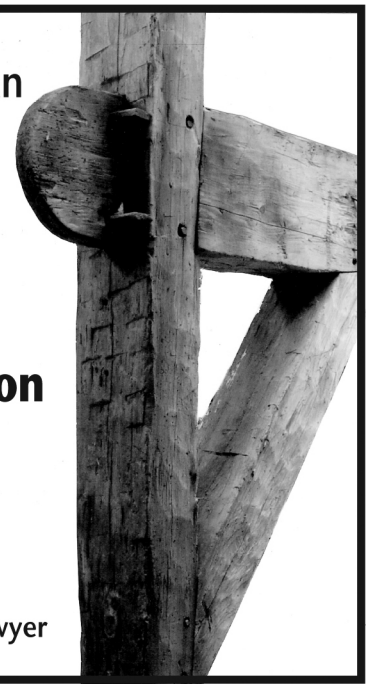

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Letter from DC
Restaurant Week

I grew up on a farm with fresh delicious food. To an extent, I consider myself a bit of a "foodie"; I was certainly surrounded by them. Twice a year, Washington, DC, has a restaurant week when various establishments offer a fixed menu at fixed prices (not including tax, gratuity, or alcohol). I wait eagerly for the list of restaurants to come out, much like I used to wait to wake my parents up on Christmas morning, and then I contact a number of my friends and make several reservations. I try to stick to two rules. First, I don't make return trips (the Oval Room is one exception) because this week is all about trying as many new places as possible. The second rule is that I try to go places that are worth the value, more expensive places where paying the normal menu price is higher than I'd usually pay for an evening out.

There was something unique about each experience. First on the list was Bistro Bis, a lovely French place near the Capitol building. I walked up with high expectations, given its reputation. Situated in the lower level of a fancy hotel, it had a warm atmosphere, but clean and modern. There was a healthy bustle, and various tables hosted groups of well-dressed businessmen and women. One might wonder, and I cannot claim to be an exception, if you'll recognize someone at a table. The waitress was gracious and attentive; the service in sum was quite good. My friend selected a delicate salmon and salad appetizer, a vegetable risotto, and a caramel crème brúlée. I ordered the traditional French onion soup, steak and pom frites and a peace cake roll. Everything was fresh and flavorful. The waitress advised against the tiramisu when I explained I had high standards, but the peach desert was a bit dry and a little bit of a letdown. In sum though, a tasty and enjoyable experience.

Wednesday night, we went to Charlie Palmers steakhouse, again down by the Capitol building and frequented by official-looking individuals in business attire. It was my friend's birthday so we started at the bar with a cocktail, one of the best I've had here in the city so far. We were seated and the service was impeccable, perhaps a bit more than usual as it was her birthday. I'm not a cold-soup person normally; gazpacho is one of my least favorite options out there, but this cold blend of a smooth corn and asparagus base with pieces of crab was delicious. The steak was well done and served on mashed potatoes and caramelized onions (a personal favorite), but the flavor wasn't quite as complex as that of the steak at Bistro Bis, and it was a little more medium than medium rare. The chocolate mousse desert was creamy and rich, served with an artistic flair. It was an upscale atmosphere and we had a great window seat, but the room and establishment lacked a unique personality. The evening ended on an exceptionally high note with a visit to the roof; the building stands just across from the US Capitol. At night, glowing with light, it is beyond majestic.

Thursday evening, I joined a group of college friends at Ristorante Piccolo in Georgetown. This upscale Italian restaurant is in an old, quaint row house, with a classic cozy and inviting vibe. Everything from the décor to the layout was elegant but also decidedly soothing and softly lit. Of all the restaurants, I'd have to say it was my favorite atmosphere. Unfortunately, the menu had very few options, and many of us ordered off the regular menu. I had a great mozzarella caprese and then a cheese tortellini and carbonara dish. The bill actually wasn't as high as I'd anticipated, and the food was good quality Italian. I'd definitely go back to the restaurant; the flavors were good, and the ambiance and location make it a nice destination. I also tried the tiramisu, and it lived up to (most of) my expectations.

On Friday I went to Rasika, a top-notch Indian restaurant that is fully deserving of its reputation. The flavoring of the dishes, the combinations, and the options were all impressive. It's hard to explain Indian food, but I had their signature appetizer. It's a crispy spinach dish, yes crispy, with a delicious sauce, and had both yogurt sauce and then a little bit of a non-spicy curry; the flavors were earth-shattering and I would have been happy just eating that dish. The chicken entree was a great blend of savory flavors in a korma-like sauce, and the meat was plentiful and tender. Finally, I had the gulab jamun, which is a traditional Indian desert and was served with pistachio ice cream; every time I eat it, I want to try and make it. For me personally, it is always mildly entertaining when I go to an Indian restaurant. I can never entirely tell what the waiters are thinking when I ask how spicy something is or mispronounce a dish. They were particularly graceful in this case. I look forward to going back and will happily pay full price for their menu.

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Then, on Monday, I went out with four girlfriends to the Oval Room. This restaurant has been my favorite in the city since last summer when I went for restaurant week. The food combinations are delicious, and cooked to perfection. All of us loved our meals: steak, risotto, scallops, and more. My appetizer was a small dish of poached shrimp in a dill lemon glaze. I have to say it was completely decadent. My salmon entree had a bacon rice garnish and the fish almost melted in my mouth. I got salmon last year, and it's the dish I look forward to at this place. A restaurant that consistently cooks good fish ranks high on my list (also because my fish is often dry when I make it at home). The rich chocolate desert was filled with a hot chocolate fudge sauce on a salted carmel bottom, and the sugar coma was well worth it.

I love restaurant week because it allows me to expand my list of restaurants, try the hottest places (or some of them), and gather good friends together for what we hope will be delicious food. We sample each other's dishes, discuss flavors, and embrace the art of food. DC isn't New York when it comes to restaurants (so people tell me), but it's still a city with plenty of diversity. Since I graduated from college, my own cooking skills have improved tremendously, but that doesn't stop me from enjoying a delicious meal out and about. In sum, it was a largely successful restaurant week, and now I can begin making my list for January.

The summer is almost over and I'm heading to Seattle for ten days to escape the last vestiges of DC summer. Here's to fall and a happy Labor Day weekend to you all.

—Tarsi Dunlop

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Music & More September Events

For 21 years, the Music & More Festival has been drawing visitors to New Marlborough for an eclectic late summer-early fall season of chamber music, jazz, literary events, and fascinating conversation at the historic Meeting House on the New Marlborough Village Green. An event is planned for every Saturday in September, with a final event on October 6.

Events take place at 4:30 pm, with some pre-concert talks, and each is followed by a reception in the Meeting House Gallery. Music events tickets are $25 or $20 for members of the New Marlborough Village Association. Tickets can be reserved at www.newmarlborough.org by phone at 413-229-2785, or purchased at the door.

The internationally acclaimed Daedalus Quartet appears at the Meeting House on September 8, with Felix Mendelssohn's String Quartet No. 1 in E-Flat Major, George Perle's youthful Molto Adagio, and Antonin Dvorak's String Quartet No. 14 in A-flat Major, his last quartet.

The Boston Classical Trio (Guy Fishman, classical cello; Susan Ogata, classical violin; and Ian Watson, fortepiano) will present music by Haydn, Mozart, Schubert, and Beethoven's "Ghost" Trio in its Berkshire debut on September 15, preceded by a free pre-concert talk at 4 pm. Ian Watson will be playing a reconstructed Broadwood piano built in 1807, much like the piano Beethoven would have played at the time of the "Ghost" Trio.

On September 22, pianist Robert Levin and violinist Daniel Stepner present the violin sonatas of Johannes Brahms, and Levin will perform a selection of piano music by Mendelssohn. A free pre-concert talk begins at 3:30 pm.

A dramatic shift takes place September 29, when the acclaimed Latin-jazz vocalist and composer Maria Rivas joins clarinetist Paul Green and the Jewish Jazz Project Ensemble for a collaboration of jazz, Latin, Klezmer, and Sephardic music that crosses and marries several musical traditions for an adventurous and lively concert. A post-concert gala wine tasting, hosted by Domaney's of Great Barrington, follows in the Art Gallery.

The Music & More 2012 Festival concludes on October 6 with three renowned authors discussing their newly published works. This year's authors are Liza Mundy (*The Richer Sex*), Andrew Nagorski (*Hitlerland*), and Peter Cameron (*Coral Glynn*). Their discussion will be moderated by Mitchel Levitas, veteran editor of the *New York Times.* Tickets to this event are $10 and $15, with discount for New Marlborough Village Association members.

The Meeting House provides an intimate contrast to the scale and crowds of Tanglewood as the summer season winds down and fall ushers in. As a final benefit, ticket holders receive a 10 percent dinner discount at the Old Inn on the Green, next to the Meeting House.

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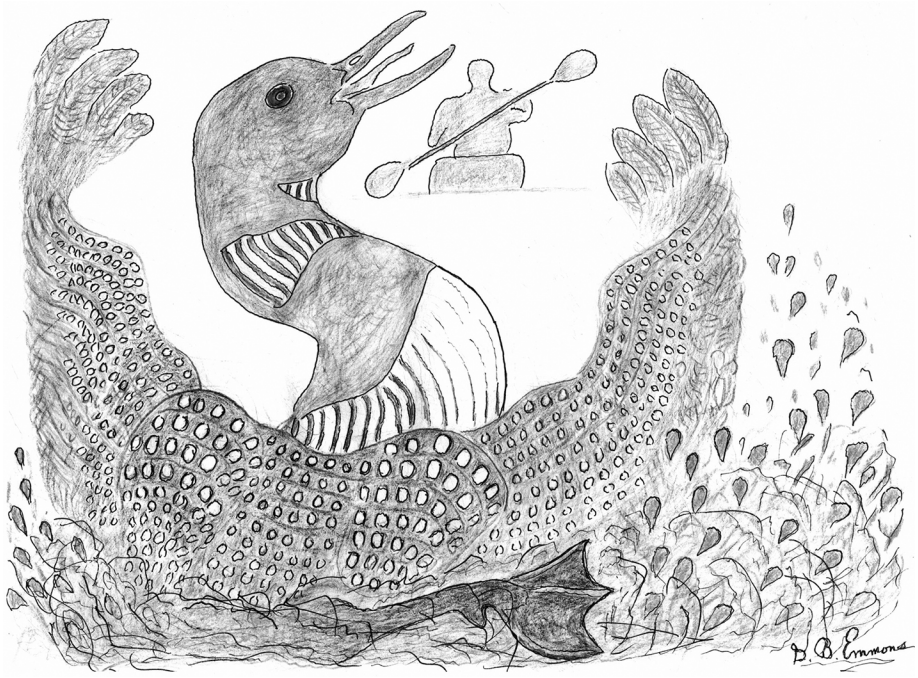

In the stillness of the night at his waterside cabin on Walden Pond, Henry David Thoreau called the call of the loon the most unearthly sound he had ever heard. Similarly for me on my golden pond annual vacation in a rustic cabin at Lake Winnipesaukee, the musical yodel of a loon is a haunting refrain of soulful awareness, especially if I have been reading, by the light of a kerosene lamp, my favorite poem "The Raven," another bird of symbolic resonance.

The vocalization of loons is limited to several noticeable calls. The tremolo itself is actually a hostile territorial warning to others, including boaters, that the solitude or nesting domain has been invaded, and it is accompanied by rising up with thrashing wing beats and kicking up the water with the feet, It is a threatening posture to scare the intruder away.

The low mournful wail is used when a loon is trying to locate another; it can be very loud and is capable of carrying for miles. When motivated by anxiety it can be made more intense by raising the pitch and adding extra syllables. This call may be the one most often heard in cottages along the shoreline of Lake Garfield just before going to sleep or dozing off reading a summer book.

The sighting and sounds of loons along our shores is a favorable measure of aquatic health of the ecosystem. While recent variations in climate warming can alter the timing of the loons' seasonal arrival and departure, their stopover here in their travels is already a location on the map well south of their normal range. Now, all too soon, but well before ice can form, they will depart for open waters of The Atlantic Ocean.

Their nearest living relatives are penguins or the albatrosses! The migration begins with a laborious long running takeoff across the water, with frantic flapping wings, until they are finally airborne. Although loons have been on this planet between Forty to fifty million years, how can we be sure they will return another year to perpetuate the pilgrimage of their passage across Lake Garfield?

Inspired by the poetry of Edgar Allen Poe about a raven that speaks the mythical image of Lenore and a fatalistic metaphor nevermore, let me narrate my own verse should their departure sadly become an exodus!

Waves talking to the shore
Their voices heard no more
Summer memories of solar lore
echoes from lunar nights of yore.

—George B. Emmons

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The Israel-Palestinian Issue

To the Editor:

We were both quite distressed when we read the accusations about Israel by Carol Husten, Julio Rodriguez, and Pat Salomon.

We are sorry that they saw such a one-sided view of a complicated situation.

In 1985, before the peace agreement was made between Israel and Jordan, we were privileged to go on an exploratory peace mission sponsored by the American Jewish Congress and led by Henry Rosovsky, acting President of Harvard. We also went to Cairo to review the status of the peace agreement with Egypt. We began and ended by being briefed and later debriefed by the US State Department.

The object was to "unofficially" listen to President Mubarak, King Hussein, and Shimon Peres to see what prospects for peace actually existed and to sense their support for peaceful resolutions to an almost intractable problem.

We had cordial meetings with all three leaders and with their prime associates. All three stated that peace was possible and that there would be no further war between Israel, Egypt, and Jordan. In fact, in the past 25 years, all lived up to 100% of the commitments which they relayed through us.

At that time, and to the present, there is no peace between the Palestinians and Israel. The problem, as we see it, is that the Palestinians refuse to accept the reality in which they live. They won't recognize Israel's right to exist. A few years after the first trip we again met with King Hussein—this time at his palace as official visitors. He then reaffirmed the positions that he had stated earlier. On that trip we also visited some West Bank cities and spoke to Palestinian leaders.

We were in Israel in June on a trip sponsored by Cornell University and led by the head of their Middle-Eastern Studies department. We visited both the East and West Banks including Ramallah, Jericho, Bethlehem, and some smaller cities. What we saw was markedly different from the situation described by Carol et al.

We spoke to people at all political extremes, from "peaceniks" to ultraconservative West Bank settlers. We met with the President of Al Qud University in Ramallah, with a woman who was a leader in the Palestinian Authority government, with a Palestinian polltaker, and with members of the US Consulate staff and a host of others with varying viewpoints.

They were supporting a one-state solution, a two state-solution, no solution, and all the possible gradations in between. In the meanwhile, the longer they wait, the more settlements will be built, and the more improbable a mutual solution will become.

The maps shown in the *Monterey News* were highly misrepresentative both in their scale and in their inference. On November 29, 1947, the United Nations partitioned the land according to the demographic conditions that then existed, assigning the Palestinians the land where they were the majority and the Israelis the land where they were the majority. (This is reflected in the second map). On May 14, 1948, Israel declared itself a state to begin on May 15th at 6 pm when the British Mandate expired. That same day Israel was attacked on all sides by the forces of Palestinians, Jordan, Egypt, Syria, Lebanon, and Saudi Arabia. A bloody war ensued in which the Israelis were fighting for their very survival. Through a lot of blood and guts, they overcame impossible odds. At that time many Palestinians fled to what they thought was temporary refuge in Jordan and Syria. At the same time Jews left or were expelled from most Arab lands, arriving in Israel in the same miserable condition that the Palestinians were to encounter and mainly having lost all of their possessions.

The difference was, the Jews were welcome in Israel and soon became part of its strength. The Palestinians were never welcome in most Arab lands, and most still, after 60+ years, live in refugee camps with slim hope of bettering themselves. Israel was attacked in two subsequent wars and each time after winning they acquired more land (the third map). All of this could have been avoided. Jews and Arabs lived peacefully throughout the Middle East for many centuries before these troubled times. The final map shows no reality with regards to scale; it vastly understates the size of the Palestinian holdings.

When we visited Ramallah in June we found a thriving city with a multitude of new high-rise apartments and luxury housing alongside of older, rundown, dwellings. There are supermarkets, luxury goods stores, and even a large Mercedes dealership. Not all Palestinians are suffering. Carol, Julio, and Pat, you were obviously carefully guided to the seamier parts of the West Bank. We have never been to Gaza; but we have seen pictures of prosperous shopping centers, grand hotels, and new construction. Again,

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some people are thriving, many, perhaps most, are not. When Israel pulled out of Gaza they left infrastructure, including sophisticated farming structures behind. The Palestinians destroyed it all in one of their first acts of self-government.

The high wall was not built until the Israelis could no longer tolerate the suicide bombers and rockets that were causing civilian casualties on a daily basis. It has largely worked. We don't hear the Palestinians, who are discomforted by the wall, recommending that maybe peace will bring the wall down, even though many Israeli leaders have made that point.

The one realization, which we have experienced in all of these meetings, was that the Palestinians have repeatedly spurned honest and fair opportunities for peace in the past and opportunities are still being lost.

Almost all the Israeli spokespersons we met stated that if the Palestinians were to accept Israel's right to exist, stop teaching their children hatred (both in textbooks and informally), and stop acting as if Israel will suddenly disappear, then mutually satisfactory solutions will prevail.

—Flora & David Perskie, Monterey

To the Editor:

The article in last month's *Monterey News* written by three Monterey residents describing their recent trip must be responded to. In the words of the late Senator Patrick Moynihan, "Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but not to his own facts." The maps at the top of the article reflect neither present reality nor historical fact. The writers seem to be not at all familiar with the long and complex history which has shaped today's Middle East.

After the conquest of Judea by the Romans in the first century of the Common Era they renamed the area Palestine—a name used by Christians and Jews ever after to describe the Holy Land. Various empires and peoples came, ruled, and disappeared. Throughout the centuries there was always a Jewish presence. Between 1517 and 1917 the area was part of the Ottoman Empire. In 1918 the victorious Allies France and England created mandates from the defeated Ottoman territories and created Syria, Lebanon, and Iraq. Palestinian boundaries were again changed in 1922 when the British Government created Jordan—taking 77% from Palestine. In 1923 the Golan Heights were separated from Palestine and given to the French mandate of Syria. The British in 1937 convened the Peel Commission, which was the first to recommend partitioning their mandate into two states. The Arabs rejected Peel outright, refusing any concession of land. In 1947 the United Nations passed Resolution 181 creating two states—one Arab and one Jewish. The Jewish state comprised 13% of the original British Mandate of which 60% was desert. Jewish leaders accepted the plan—Arab leaders rejected the plan and five states declared war on Israel the day after the Jewish State declared independence. At the war's conclusion Jordan OCCUPIED the West Bank and Egypt OCCUPIED the Gaza strip. Refugee camps were established which to the shame of Arab leadership still exist today.

"Palestine" became associated with the Arab Palestinian nationalist movement in the 1960's referring to the State of Israel but to none of the countries carved from the original territory.

The wars of 1967 and 1973, both wars of defense from Arab aggression, resulted in more Israeli territory. Offers of return of land for peace were rebuffed. In 1979 the entire Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt as part of a peace treaty. Israeli citizens who had built homes, farms and communities were dislodged by their government and resettled. In July of 2000 at Camp David, under the leadership of President Clinton, Arafat was offered 96% of the West Bank and Gaza for a Palestine state. He refused the offer, unwilling to have a two state solution and again sought

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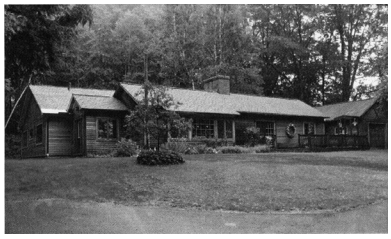

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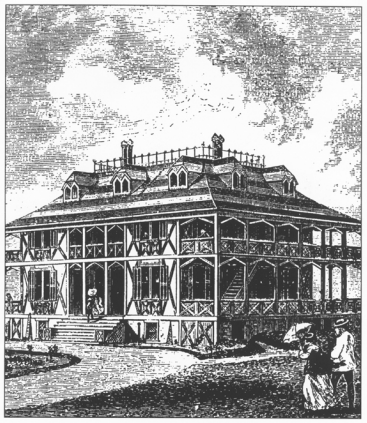

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to incite Palestinians with false promises and unrealistic goals.

By the end of 2000, 98% of Palestinians lived under Palestinian government with little or no improvement in their lives. Israel unilaterally withdrew from Gaza and the West Bank—again uprooting Jewish settlers from homes, businesses, and farms they had established there. The infrastructures were demolished by the Palestinians as they moved in.

The visitors from Monterey write of the terrible checkpoints for visitors from the disputed territories into the sovereign State of Israel, the "wall of separation," and the embargo of sensitive materials. Did they never question why the State of Israel needs these? Did their hosts forget to show them the bomb-making factories in the West Bank? Was no invitation offered to meet with the mothers who proudly show pictures of their suicide bomber sons—responsible for killing and maiming hundreds of innocent Israeli citizens? Why didn't the tour include the sites in Gaza used to daily launch rockets into Israeli cities, causing school children to spend their days in bomb shelters? As every nation, Israel seeks to protect its citizens from harm .The security fence was not started until 2003 when terrorism reached unprecedented levels. Since its construction attacks have dropped 90%. The fence is 97% chain link; ten miles is concrete to prevent snipers that were frequent in that area. Some sections have been rerouted when Palestinians appealed to the Supreme Court of Israel. The number of checkpoints has been reduced from 25 to 12 since the fence has been in place. Long overdue recognition by Arab governments of the State of Israel would be the most effective way to help the Palestinian People. Instead they are used as pawns by leaders now being challenged in the "Arab Spring."

The writers question the $3 billion dollars in aid to Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East. It is a country in which Arabs vote, sit in the Knesset (parliament), and are judges in the legal system. It is a country in which Christians (and peoples of all faiths) can live and worship publicly. The writers forgot to mention the nearly $600 million dollars in aid to the West Bank and Gaza. According to the Congressional Record the United States has committed over 4 billion dollars to the Palestinians since the establishment of limited self-rule in the disputed territories. The United States is the largest single state donor to the U.N. Relief and Works agency for Palestinian refugees. This is in spite of the fact that Gaza is governed by the terrorist organization Hamas. The Hamas charter calls for the destruction of Israel and states, "There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through Jihad. Initiatives, proposals, and international conferences are all a waste of time."

No one people have been more committed to Justice, Peace, and Brotherhood than the people of Israel. It is in their DNA and longed for in their daily prayers. The lessons of their history are taught to every generation. Misrepresentations of a difficult and complex political situation, such as in last month's article, do nothing to end strife and hatred and thwart any meaningful discussion.

—Lois Storch, Monterey

To the Editor:

Thanks to Carol Husten, Julio Rodriguez, and Pat Salomon for their courage in shining a bright light on the tragic plight of the Palestinian people.

—Michele Miller, Monterey

To the Editor:

I read with interest the recent article by Carol Husten on her travels to the Middle East. Her observations and perspective brought a particular lens to a very difficult and complicated issue. I hope that however one views her conclusions, the article will engender a wider dialogue where all viewpoints can be shared, respected and discussed.

—Erica Stern, Monterey

To the Editor:

I fail to understand the purpose of the writers of the anti-Israel polemic in the *Monterey News*. They purport to be part of a "peace builders" group. This one-sided anti-Israel, biased, inaccurate report will do little to promote a productive conversation. Instead it has provoked outrage and polarization. It is indeed a puzzle that people who supposedly have a peace agenda are excessively provocative and demonstrate little ability to promote a productive conversation, a conversation that must be a cornerstone of a peaceful

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solution. The maps that accompany the article fail to explain that the changes in the boundaries of Israel came about as a result of wars initiated by the Arab countries with the expressed intent to destroy the State of Israel. If the writers are interested in a peaceful solution they need to be educated about the State of Israel, its history, and its politics (including Israel's peace movement), as well as the history and politics of the Arab nations surrounding Israel. This is a complex issue and the presentation in the *Monterey News* is simplistic, naïve, and self-righteous, impacting negatively on any efforts to find a peaceful solution to the problems of the region. The writers may not be anti-Semitic, but their rhetoric is very reminiscent of anti-Semitic rhetoric of history, including recent history.

—Ann Lyons , Monterey

To The Editor:

I am writing in response to the article "Realities in Palestine: An Eyewitness Report," published in the August *Monterey News*. I will not attempt to refute all the misleading, false, and biased information in the article. I hope an academic response will be written by others.

However, how can one talk about the "troubling news coming from Gaza," and not mention the thousands of rockets fired from Gaza into Israeli schools and homes? How can one not mention that Hamas, which governs Gaza, is sworn to the destruction and elimination of the "Jewish State"?

But, I write from a more personal point of view. Both my parents were Holocaust survivors. After reading this anti-Israel polemic, written by my neighbors in Monterey, I was frightened. Without a doubt, my background influenced my reaction. I wondered what could come next? "Supporters of Israel not Welcomed at the Monterey Beach?" Of course not, but words can and do hurt. Particularly when an article is not vetted for accuracy and balance.

While I agree with the authors that not all criticism of Israeli policies equals anti-Semitism, there is a gray area where one can't help but wonder. I take the authors at their word, but why didn't they visit the kibbutz, adjacent to the Gaza, where my family's friend was murdered by an incoming rocket from Gaza. I wonder what the authors would say and do if bombs fired from Otis were landing near their homes?

The Interfaith Peace Builders (www.ifpb.org), referenced in the article, organized the "eye opening journey," and presumably decided the sites to be visited and the people to be visited and interviewed. Visit the IFPB website, and you will discover that six out of the fourteen members of the Board of Directors, were either born in Palestine, other Arab countries, or work for Arab/Muslim organizations. There is nothing wrong with these affiliations, but these facts should have been disclosed by the authors. Certainly these affiliations had some influence on the journey's itinerary. To not reveal these potential conflicts is misleading at best, and dishonest at worst.

I look forward to the arrival of each month's *Monterey News*. I can't wait to read Bonner's latest lesson in biology and the wildlife reports, George Emmons' vignettes and illustrations, Town News, what Tarsi is up to in her life, the photos and illustrations, and the upcoming activities I can partake in.

Please let's not turn the *Monterey News* into a political forum, on the most controversial and complicated issues of the day. There are more than enough sources of information on these topics in the newspapers, TV, radio, lectures, and conversations with people.

Let the *Monterey News* be the *Monterey News*.

—Edwin A. Salsitz, M.D., Monterey

To the Editor:

Having read the article "Realities in Palestine: An Eyewitness Report" by Carol Husten, Julio Rodriguez, and Pat Salomon in your August edition, I am happy to know that there is such a committed level of engagement in the Monterey community towards the achievement of peace in the Middle East. However, I am worried by the approach.

Rather than criticize certain policies of Israel, which is a natural function of any democracy, the authors question the validity of Israel's existence and presence in the land. This tack misleads the readers by presenting a map out of context using incorrect map legends, providing a manipulative, one-sided attack.

These actions fall into the category of delegitimization which aims at negating the right of the Jewish people to live in a sovereign democratic and Jewish state in the Jewish people's historical homeland (modern day Israel). Delegitimization is intended to brand Israel as a "pariah" nation, to isolate Israel from the international community and make it increasingly difficult to support it economically and politically.

Isolating and criticizing Israel will not lead to the shared goals of two states for two peoples—a Jewish and democratic state of Israel and a sovereign state of Palestine. This is something the Federation system, U.S. government, European Union, UN, and the Israeli government all desire.

The Interfaith Peace Builders (IPB) sponsor regular delegations to "observe" the Palestinian-Israeli conflict promoting >

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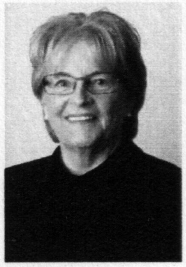
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the Palestinian rejectionist narrative and anti-Israel demonization. IPB is a national partner of The US Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation—an organization which seeks to see the only true democracy in the Middle East stripped of all American military aid. This coalition endorses boycott and divestment campaigns against Israel, rather than seeking to promote the dialogue and peace-building efforts required to create a Jewish and Palestinian state sitting side by side.

Participants of IPB mean well, and care deeply about peace and justice, harboring the same values as many Israelis. IPB organizers harness this good will to promote their own narrow agendas, which only serves to detract from authentic peacemaking and instead seeks to strip Israel of her legitimacy.

The best solution to the Israel-Palestinian conflict is a negotiated, two-state solution that will allow Israelis and Palestinians to live as neighbors in peace and security. Manipulating history and misrepresenting maps does nothing to further dialogue and peacemaking.

—Arlene D. Schiff, Executive Director
Jewish Federation of the Berkshires

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To the Editor:

I look forward each month to receiving my copy of the *Monterey News* and reading articles about the status of the cell phone tower, the latest wildlife sightings, and what's going on in our community. I think you do a great job of keeping us informed about our community. But I found the recent article in the August issue, "The Realities in Palestine: An Eyewitness Report," inappropriate for publication in the *Monterey News*.

This is not a local story but, rather, a controversial international issue best suited for reporting by the *New York Times* or *Boston Globe*. Those newspapers check facts for accuracy and present a fuller and more objective picture. What was really presented here were the *views* of the writer. But because it was published in your newspaper, a lot of mistruths in the article were conveyed to the readers of the *Monterey News* as fact-based reporting.

I am for peace in the Middle East and for a two-state solution. And I do not equate "any criticism of Israel with anti-Semitism." But I do object to the *Monterey News* being a conduit to promote the propaganda put forth in this article.

—Dorene Beller, Monterey

To the Editor:

I was surprised and disturbed to think you would publish an article so one-sided and without historical context. While the "Realities In Palestine" article describes the dire situation that exists among this population, it nowhere mentions any of the circumstances that led to their current conditions.

The article speaks of "a wall of separation between Israelis and Palestinians," but does not mention that between 2000 and 2004, over 1000 Israelis were killed by Arab terrorists who infiltrated into Jewish communities and massacred innocent civilians. This, despite repeated Israeli efforts at peace, only to be rebuffed by an all-or-nothing attitude by Arafat and his various successors.

This is not to deny there is a problem. It would be satisfying for mankind to find a resolution to the refugee question. However, the writers are blind to the historic events that have led to the situation they describe, including the shameful abandonment and rejection of Palestinians by the Arab world. Perhaps they would do better to turn their attention to the Palestinian leadership who intentionally perpetuate the situation by openly calling for the total destruction of Israel and encourage terrorism such as killing children on school buses.

And yet, the authors question the need for security checkpoints?

Palestine does not want peace with Israel, according to Hamas PM Ismail Haniyeh: "They [West] want from us to stop resistance and acknowledge Israel but I herewith announce that this will never happen."

The Israeli Palestinian conflict is an ongoing struggle that began a century ago. In my opinion it has no place being represented in a lopsided "eyewitness" account in our local newspaper.

—Myrna Rosen, Monterey

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Waste Paint, Oil Collections

On Saturdays, September 8 and 29, the South Berkshire Household Hazardous Waste Collaborative will hold two paint and oil collections for the sixteen participating towns (Alford, Becket, Egremont, Great Barrington, Lee, Lenox, Monterey, Mount Washington, New Marlborough, Otis, Richmond, Sandisfield, Sheffield, Stockbridge, Tyringham and West Stockbridge). The Center for EcoTechnology will coordinate the collections.

Saturday, September 8, 9–11:00 am, Lenox Highway Dept., 275 Main Street, Lenox

Saturday, September 29, 9–11:30 am, Great Barrington Recycling Center, 601 Stockbridge Road (across from Monument Mountain High School)

Acceptable materials are oil-based paint, stains, paint thinners, spray paint, and turpentine, as well as waste motor oil.

Latex paint will not be accepted at this event. Empty cans can be recycled with scrap metal. Dried-up cans of latex paint can be disposed with the regular trash.

To register online or for information about what can be brought to these collections, visit http://cetonline.org/Events/events.php?id=97 or email Aric.Brown@cetonline.org. Or call CET at 888-577-8448 ext. 10 or 30.

Contributors

Thanks to the following folks for their recent contributions in response to our annual appeal. We could not keep going without your support.

Joyce G. Genovesi
Richard Schroeder
Alyssa Gelbard
Robert Hudak
June Thomas
Kevin Allan & Justin Burke
Nancy Kleban

Eileen Lawlor
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Calendar

Every Monday except holidays: Select Board meeting, Town Hall, 9 am.

Every Tuesday: Zumba Class, 5:30–6:30 pm, Monterey Firehouse. $10/class.

Every Sunday: Softball, 10:30 am, Greene Park.

Saturday, September 1: "Trees, Forests and the Making of a Nation," Bidwell House Museum History Talk by Eric Rutkow based on his new book, *American Canopy*, 10 am, Bidwell House Museum, 100 Art School Road. $15/$10.

Monday, September 3: Labor Day; Town Offices, Library closed.

Saturday, September 8: Music & More presents the Daedalus Quartet, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House, Route 57. See p. 19.

Thursday, September 6: State Primaries. See p. 6.

Tuesday, September 11: Free CET Composting Workshop, 6:30–7:30, Lee Library, 100 Main Street, Lee. See p. 13.

Thursday, September 13: Free Blood Pressure Clinic with Berkshire Visiting Nurse Assoc., Town Hall Meeting Room, 2–3 pm.

Saturday, September 15: Music & More presents the Boston Classical Trio, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House, Route 57. See p. 19.

Monterey News

The *Monterey News* is an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to fostering communication in the Monterey community. Our editorial address is P. O. Box 9, Monterey, MA, 01245. We invite signed letters, articles, drawings, poetry, and photographs. Submissions may also be left in the drop box on the loading dock of the General Store. Address requests for advertising rates and further information to the Editor, or telephone us at 413-528-4347 or e-mail montereynews9@gmail.com.

Friday, September 21: Mass. Fisheries & Wildlife presentation on New England Cottontail conservation efforts, 5–6 pm, Monterey Church. See p. 9.

Saturday, September 22: Music & More presents a classical concert by pianist Robert Levin and violinist Daniel Stepner, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House, Route 57. See p. 19.

Sunday, September 23: Mushroom walk and talk with John Wheeler, 9:30 am–12:30 pm. Meet at Firehouse Pavilion. Info, 528-4438. See p. 11.

Saturday, September 29:
The Last Mountain Laurel Contradance, 8:30–11:30 pm, Dewey Hall, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel; caller Joe Baker. Free.

Music & More presents Latin-jazz vocalist and composer Maria Rivas, clarinetist Paul Green, and the Jewish Jazz Project Ensemble, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House, Route 57. See p. 19.

Monday, September 24: Adult book group will discuss *The Killer Angels* by Michael Shaara, 7:30 pm, Monterey Library. Newcomers welcome.

Saturday, October 6: Discussion with authors Liza Mundy, Andrew Nagorski, and Peter Cameron, 4:30 pm, New Marlborough Meeting House. See p. 19.

The Observer
July 26 – August 25

High temp. (8/2, 3)	86º
Low temp. (8/19)	47°
Avg. high temp.	79.6°
Avg. low temp.	59.9°
Avg. temp.	69.8°
Total rainfall	5.45 in.

Rainfall occurred on 11 days.

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Contributions from local artists this month:
Maureen Banner, 6, 17; George Emmons, 20;
Bob Horvath, 26; Bonner McAllester, 16;
Charlotte Micklewright, 15; Leah Weisgal, 7, 9, 26

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